

**COMMEMORATION  
OF THE NINE MEN  
WHOSE NAMES ARE RECORDED  
ON THE WAR MEMORIAL  
IN ST MARY'S CHURCH  
AT LITTLE COXWELL**

**ANN PRESTON**

**2016**

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# INTRODUCTION

## **INTRODUCTION**

These notes were prepared for commemoration services to be held at St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell. Also in preparing this summary of information on the nine men whose names are recorded on the war memorial in St Mary's Church at Little Coxwell, it has been intentional to focus on their links with Little Coxwell and their family background, although rather obviously it was necessary to record service background, including their 'final day' to complete the context. I have endeavoured to verify all the information on each individual; if there are errors then I apologize, please let me know, and this document can be altered.

I have also included here a copy of the document for each individual which is freely available on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web-site; perhaps rather obviously, given war-time conditions some inaccuracies occur in those records, which you may notice.

Furthermore I also have further information on each of these individuals; if you would like further information please contact me. If you have additional information that you are able and willing to share then I would also be delighted to hear from you.

**Ann Preston.**

*(email address on last page of this document)*

**THE WAR MEMORIAL  
IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
LITTLE COXWELL**



*The war memorial on the north wall of St. Mary's Church, Little Coxwell.*

THESE MEN OF  
LITTLE COXWELL  
GAVE THEIR LIVES  
SERVING THEIR  
GOD  
KING AND COUNTRY  
IN THE GREAT WAR

<i>Pte Ambrose Elborough</i>	<i>Royal Berks Regiment</i>
<i>Pte George Edward Russ</i>	<i>Wiltshire Regiment</i>
<i>William Higgs A.B.</i>	
<i>Anson Battalion</i>	<i>Royal Naval Division</i>
<i>Pte Henry William Hunter</i>	<i>Royal Berks Regiment</i>
<i>Sgt Frederick Nash</i>	<i>Royal Berks Regiment</i>
<i>Pte John Henry Hanna</i>	<i>Gloucester Regiment</i>
<i>Pte Jesse Preston</i>	<i>Royal Berks Regiment</i>
<i>Pte Albert Ernest King</i>	<i>Royal Berks Regiment</i>
<i>Bombardier Harry Kibble</i>	<i>Royal Field Artillery</i>

1914  
1918

*Text from the war memorial*





## **COMMENTS ON ALL OF THESE NINE MEN**

- five of the nine are born at Little Coxwell (Hanna, Higgs, Hunter, King and Preston)
- two are not born in Berkshire (Nash in Hampshire and Russ in Wiltshire)
- the other two are born in nearby villages in Berkshire (Elborough and Kibble)
- five join the county regiment: the Royal Berkshires (Elborough, Hunter, King, Nash, and Preston)
- only one serves in the navy (Higgs)
- one dies whilst a prisoner of war in Germany (Russ)
- one is buried at St. Mary's, Little Coxwell (King)
- one has no known grave (Hanna)
- the remaining six are buried in war cemeteries in France (Elborough, Higgs, Hunter, Kibble, Nash, and Preston)
- the first death occurred in 1915 (Russ)
- five died in 1918 (Higgs, Kibble, King, Nash and Preston)
- the youngest to die was just 20 years old (Higgs)
- the oldest to die was 36 years old (Preston)
- average ages at death: the mean average is 25 years, the mode average is 20 years, the median average is 22 years
- the only lads known to be related are Higgs and Preston
- the youngest and oldest to die were the cousins Higgs and Preston
- three men were married (Elborough, Nash and Preston); all three had children

# **AMBROSE JAMES ELBOROUGH**

also known as

## **AMBROSE JAMES ELBROW**

# **AMBROSE JAMES ELBOROUGH**

also known as

**AMBROSE JAMES ELBROW**

**1886 - 1916**

## **Introduction**

Ambrose's name on our war memorial in St. Mary's Church is the sole recorded evidence that I have found linking him to Little Coxwell: that surely is sufficient. From records it is quite obvious that Ambrose Elbrow's links are more strongly with Longcot and Fernham; Ambrose was an ordinary village lad with strong roots in this area of Berkshire.

Ann Preston  
2016

## **War Memorials**

On the war memorial in St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell  
"Pte Ambrose Elborough                  Royal Berks Regiment"

Also on the war memorial at Longcot:  
'Ambrose Elbrow'

Of the nine men whose names are listed on the Little Coxwell war memorial Ambrose James Elborough is the one individual who is not included on the war memorials in Faringdon.

*Note: There are many variations of the Elbrow surname, for example, Elb(o)rough, Elbro, also the 'E' can be replaced by 'A', 'H' can be placed in front although usually one finds 'Ho' replacing 'E'.*

## Service

5083 Private

Royal Berkshire Regiment, 1st/4th Battalion

Previously served in the 4th battalion, a territorial battalion, in 1905

Killed in action 16th May 1916, aged 29

Grave at Hebuterne Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.



5083 PRIVATE

**A. J. ELBROW**

ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

16TH MAY 1916

*Headstone and inscription at Hebuterne Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France*

## **Family Background and Links with Little Coxwell**

Ambrose James Elborough was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 1886 at Hatford; his parents were Charles and Ann Elbro, his father Charles was employed as a carter. In 1891 and 1901 Ambrose is living with his parents and siblings at Longcot, the census records for these years record that his father is an agricultural labourer and that in 1891 Ambrose is 4 years old and in 1901 he is 14 years old and working as a 'Plough Boy'.

His parents, Charles Elbro and Ann Curtis, married at Fernham in 1861; Ann Curtis was born at Fernham, Charles was baptised at Longcot.

Ambrose James Elbow married Rosetta Jane Roberts in January 1911; Rosetta, named for her mother and probably, like her mother, also called Ettie; she was the daughter of John and Rosetta (Ettie) Roberts of Longcot.

In 1911 from the census record Ambrose Elbow and his wife Rosetta are living at Longcot; he is employed as a cowman on a farm. This record shows that Ambrose is aged 24, Rosetta is aged 20; that he is born in Hatford and that she is born in Shrivenham. Their property has two main rooms (in addition there might be a scullery).

Ambrose and Rosetta have these children baptised at Longcot parish church:

1911 July 23rd Edith Rosetta Elbow daughter of Ambrose James and Rosetta Elbow, labourer, born June 24th

1912 November 3rd Ambrose Charles Elbow son of Ambrose James and Rosetta Elbow, labourer, Chapelwick, Shrivenham, born August 28th

1916 August 20th Frederick Francis Kitchener Elbow son of Ambrose James and Rosetta Elbow, labourer (deceased, killed in France)

From this baptism of 1912, we find Ambrose and family at Shrivenham. One can now only conjecture that perhaps in 1913, or just after, Ambrose James Elbow finds employment in Little Coxwell, probably as a cowman, and that he and his family move to Little Coxwell, perhaps to a tied cottage. When war breaks out in 1914, as a member of a territorial battalion (as he would still appear to be) then he is immediately called to service with the battalion. Rosetta and the children may have stayed in Little Coxwell, but perhaps only until his death. There is no record of this Elbow family in the parish registers, the census or the electoral roll for Little Coxwell. As the name Ambrose James Elborough is on our war memorial in the church we must trust that the conjecture I have made is correct.

## His final day

These two entries from the War Diary of the 1/4th Royal Berkshire Regiment cover the time that Ambrose Elborough was killed: the date given for his death being the 16th May 1916. It would appear likely that he was one of those killed in the action on the 15th May, whose body was subsequently recovered and buried at night.

### From the War Diary:

#### **At Hebuterne, France:**

##### **15th May 1916**

Working parties as before.

Their guns were active most of the day - 77 mm, 10.5 cm and 15 cm, especially the latter.

No registration was done.

It was a very quiet night up to 12.30 a.m., when a very heavy bombardment, followed by a raid, was made.

Weather: a fine day with rain at intervals.

Remarks Casualties: 18 Killed, 51 Wounded, 29 Missing.

##### **16th May 1916**

The Acting GOC, the Brigadier, and GSO 1 came up about 9.0 a.m. All the morning was spent in repairing the damage where possible.

We were relieved by the 8th Worcesters, the relief beginning about 3.30 p.m. Parties of C and D Companies were left behind to search the ground and carry out the dead and wounded who could not be moved by day.

The Battalion moved to bivouacs at Couin.

Capt. Aldworth remained behind to attend the funeral of 12 who were buried at night.

Weather: a fine day.

## Comments

Of the nine lads named on the war memorial:

- one of the three men who were married.

**Note:** GOC = General Officer Commanding, GSO = General Staff Officer or General Services Officer.

In Memory of

Private

**A J Elbrow**

5083, 1st/4th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment who died on 16 May 1916

Remembered with Honour  
**Hebuterne Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Extract from the web-site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

# **GEORGE EDWARD RUSS**



# **GEORGE EDWARD RUSS**

1893 – 1915

## **Introduction**

George Edward Russ died in 1915 whilst a prisoner of war in Germany.

## **War Memorials**

On the war memorial in St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell  
'Pte George Edward Russ            Wiltshire Regiment'

Recorded at Faringdon: on the War Memorial and in All Saints Church  
'G E RUSS'

## **Service**

3/9699 Private  
Wiltshire Regiment, 2nd Battalion

Died on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 1915 whilst a prisoner of war at Gottengen Camp; aged 22 years. He was buried at Oberhone Cemetery and subsequently reinterred at Niederzwehren Cemetery in 1924 (both cemeteries in Germany).

Headstone also bears the inscription: NEVER FORGOTTEN

## **Family Background and Links with Little Coxwell**

George Edward Russ was born in 1893 at Wroughton, Wiltshire, his father was Charles Edward Russ, born in Somerset, his mother's name was Esther Annie, but usually known as Annie, she was born in Wiltshire. His father, Charles was a farm labourer. In 1881 recently wed and with a one month old baby son, they were living at Compton Bassett in Wiltshire; by 1891 there are four children in the family and they have moved to Elcombe, Wroughton Wiltshire where George Edward Russ was born.

By the time of the 1901 census George, 7 years old, is living with his parents and three older siblings at Buckland, where his father is employed on a farm. By 1911 George Russ, 18 years old, is working as a groom, and living in the household of his

employer, Charles Jefferies, a farmer, at Challow Marsh; his parents, by 1911, have moved to Stanford-in-the-Vale.

'Russ, G., private, Wilts Regiment': George Edward Russ is included on the list of men serving in the army or the navy from Little Coxwell first published in the Faringdon Advertiser on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1914. Quite clearly he is associated with Little Coxwell at this time, although no record of his employment (which was probably on a farm) or residence in the village occurs. However there is evidence that members of his family are living at Little Coxwell: his father, Charles Russ is listed on the electoral roll for Little Coxwell for 1915 (he was probably living at Longcot immediately prior to this removal).

Albert Frank Russ, (generally known as Frank) an older brother of George Edward Russ is living in Little Coxwell by 1911, he is boarding with Sarah and Alfred George Pill; both men are described as farm labourers. Frank Russ marries later that year (at Longcot) and makes his home at Little Coxwell until about 1936 when he and his family move away from the village, probably to Marlborough Gardens, Faringdon.

### **His final day**

At the dedication of the War Memorial in Faringdon in February 1921, the card on a floral tribute placed by his family read: From a loving Mother, Brothers and Sisters, Brothers-in-law and Sisters-in-law, in fond and loving memory of a dear son and brother who was brutally murdered by the guards at a Gottengen prison camp, Germany, Pte. G. E. Russ, 2nd Wilts Regiment. "Gone but not forgotten."

### **Comments**

Of the nine lads named on the war memorial:

- the only prisoner of war
- the only one buried in Germany
- the first to die
- the only one who joined the Wiltshire Regiment

### **N.B.**

In 2010 Russ Way, part of the Folly View Estate in Faringdon, was named for George Edward Russ.

In Memory of  
Private  
**G E Russ**

3/9699, 2nd Bn., Wiltshire Regiment who died on 31 August 1915 Age 22

Son of Charles and Annie Russ, of 8, Regent Place, Swindon, Wilts.

Remembered with Honour  
**Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Extract from the web-site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

# **WILLIAM JAMES HIGGS**

# **WILLIAM JAMES HIGGS**

**1898 – 1918**

## **Introduction**

William James Higgs died of wounds received in action in France in 1918 aged 20. Will (Willie as a boy) was born, schooled, lived and worked in Little Coxwell.

## **War Memorials**

On the war memorial in St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell  
'William Higgs A.B. Anson Battalion Royal Naval Division'

Recorded at Faringdon: on the War Memorial and in All Saints Church  
'W HIGGS'

On the war memorial at All Saints Church, Oaksey, Wiltshire:  
'William James Higgs  
Able Seaman, Anson Battalion Royal Navy Division'

## **Service**

R/1674 Able Seaman  
Anson Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Died of wounds at the 150<sup>th</sup> (Royal Naval) Field Ambulance on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 1918. His death was four days after his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Grave: Bucquoy Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France

## Family Background and Links with Little Coxwell

William James Higgs, the son of Caroline and Robert Gerring Higgs, was born at Little Coxwell on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1898, he was baptised at St. Mary's Church on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1898. The family lived in one of the semi-detached cottages on the Shrivenham Road known as Bunney Cottages or Chowle Cottages, then part of the Little Coxwell House estate.

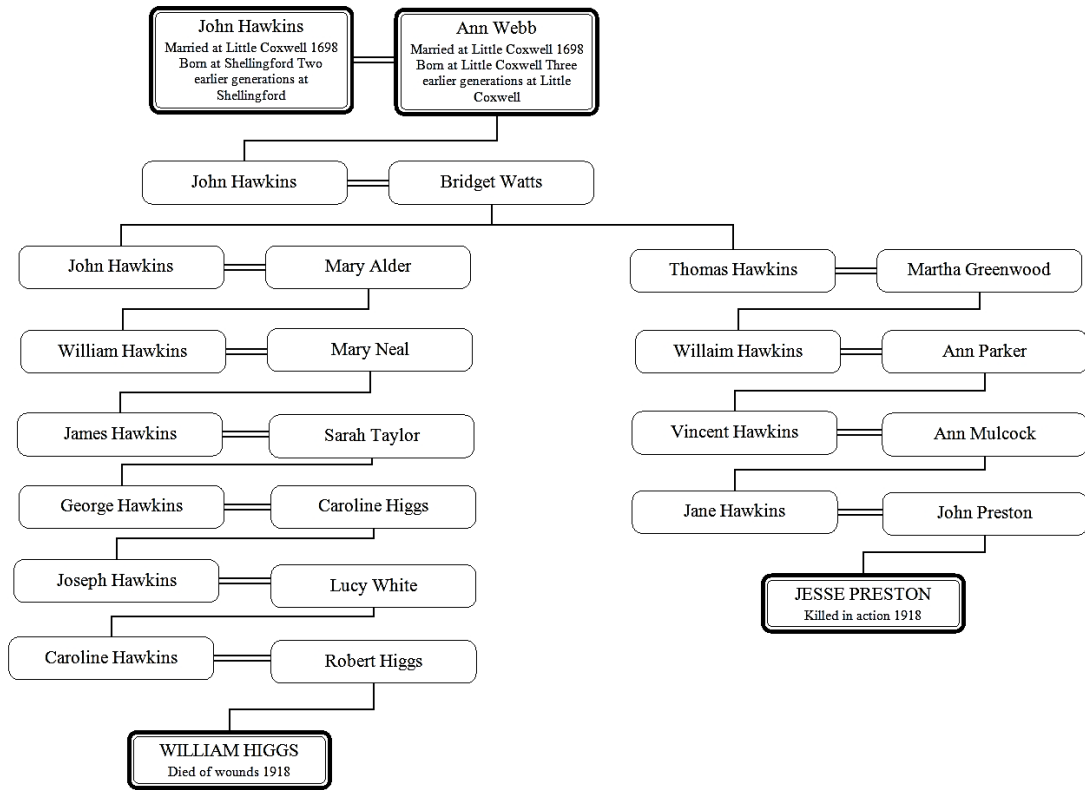


*Bunney Cottages, Little Coxwell, early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the home of the Higgs family*

Will attended Little Coxwell village school from 9<sup>th</sup> September 1901, when he was three years old until leaving aged 13¼ years on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 1911.

By May 1917, aged 18, William is employed as a stud groom and labourer on the farm and in the gardens at Little Coxwell House. His father, Robert Higgs, was also employed by the Little Coxwell House Estate; records show his occupation in later life as a gardener, earlier records show him to have been a farm carter. Will's parents and siblings moved from Little Coxwell and settled at Oaksey, near Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

**Chart showing link between Jesse Preston and William Higgs through the Hawkins family**



**N.B.** All these families through the generations had their home at Little Coxwell.

**Personal Note**

William James Higgs is my sixth cousin.

**Ann Preston.**

## His final day

The Anson Battalion saw action (in the Second Battle of Bapaume) on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1918 and on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> prior to this. William Higgs could have been wounded on any one of these days (his date of death is recorded as the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1918 at the 150<sup>th</sup> (Royal Naval) Field Ambulance); the war diary records that there were heavy losses on all these dates.

## Comments

Of the nine lads named on the war memorial:

- the only one who joined the navy (albeit he fought in the trenches instead of on board a ship)
- William Higgs and Jesse Preston are the only lads known to be related (William's mother was Caroline Higgs nee Hawkins and Jesse's mother was Jane Preston nee Hawkins so that through their Hawkins family connection the relationship is fourth cousin twice removed).





In Memory of  
Able Seaman

**W J Higgs**

R/1674, Anson Bn. R.N. Div., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 25 August 1918 Age 20

Born at Little Coxwell, Faringdon, Berks. Son of Robert and Caroline Higgs, of Oaksey, Malmesbury, Wilts.

Remembered with Honour  
**Bucquoy Communal Cemetery Extension**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Extract from the web-site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

# **HENRY WILLIAM HUNTER**

also known as

**HARRY HUNTER**

and as

**WILLIAM HENRY HUNTER**

# **HENRY WILLIAM HUNTER**

also known as

**HARRY HUNTER**

and as

**WILLIAM HENRY HUNTER**

**1887 – 1916**

## **Introduction**

September 1916: Mrs Hunter has received intimation that her son, Private W. H. Hunter, 2nd Royal Berks Regiment, was killed in action on September 21st. In a letter of sympathy with Mrs Hunter the Chaplain of the regiment writes that Pte. Hunter was killed instantaneously. They held a very nice funeral service on the following day, and erected a cross at the head of the grave. Much sympathy is extended to Mrs Hunter in her bereavement.

*From The Faringdon Advertiser 30<sup>th</sup> September 1916*

## **War Memorials**

On the war memorial in St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell  
'Pte Henry William Hunter          Royal Berks Regiment'

Recorded at Faringdon: on the War Memorial and in All Saints Church  
'H W HUNTER'

## Service

17579 Private  
Royal Berkshire Regiment, 2nd Battalion

Killed in action Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 1916. Aged 28 years.

Grave at Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.  
Headstone also bears the inscription: REST IN PEACE



17579 PRIVATE  
WILLIAM HENRY HUNTER  
ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT  
21ST SEPTEMBER 1916

REST IN PEACE

*Headstone and inscription at Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France*

## Family Background and Links with Little Coxwell

Harry Hunter is another lad who was born, schooled, lived and worked in Little Coxwell.

William Henry Hunter was born at Little Coxwell on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 1887, he was baptised at St. Mary's Church on Christmas Day 1887. He was subsequently called Harry, consequently he was also known as Henry William Hunter.

Harry's parents were Thomas and Sarah Ann Hunter; they were married at Little Coxwell in 1881. Harry Hunter lived with his parents in Little Coxwell, where his father's employment was as a farm worker.

Thomas and Sarah Ann Hunter have five children: Harry is their third child. Harry's father dies when Harry is ten years old: Thomas Hunter is 40 years old and is buried in St. Mary's churchyard in July 1897. Harry's mother, Sarah, then works at home as a dressmaker to support herself and the children.

### **The Hunter family home**



*Thatched cottages at a corner of Little Coxwell photographed in the early part of the 20th century. It was in one of the cottages at the far right that the Hunter family made their home. The cottages show the traditional long-straw thatch typical of the Vale of the White Horse. These cottages were demolished and more modern and convenient properties built in their place.*

From my research on the properties in Little Coxwell, Harry and his parents lived in one of the three cottages, as shown in the photograph, located opposite opposite The Grove and backing onto the school yard, but which are now demolished. These cottages when auctioned in 1915 were described as constructed of stone with thatched roofs, each having a kitchen, pantry, two bedrooms and a wash-house, with a well with a pump on the property; the Hunters were described as good tenants.

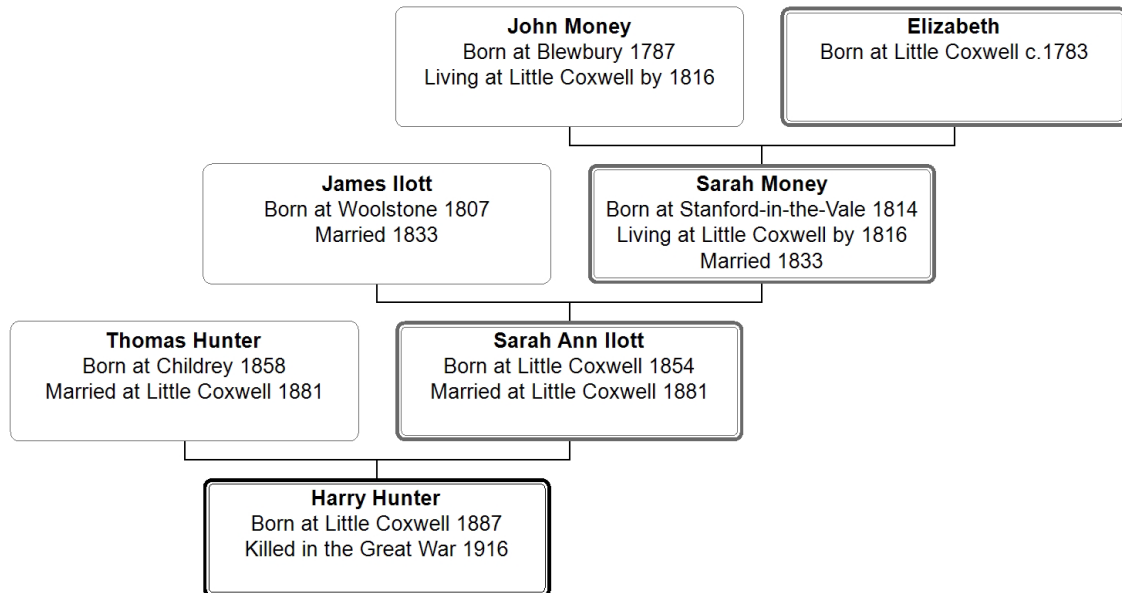
Harry attended the village school from 1891; by 1901, aged 13, he is working as a plough boy on a farm at Little Coxwell. By 1911 Harry has moved to Goring where he is employed as a cowman; he is lodging at Park Farm Cottage, with the farm carter.

Turning now to the Little Coxwell women in Harry's life: Harry Hunter's mother was born at Little Coxwell, her mother, i.e. Harry's grandmother lived at Little Coxwell from a very young child, and her mother, Harry's great-grandmother was born at Little Coxwell about 1783; see also the chart below. It is quite clear from records from the census and church registers that Harry's parents, grandparents and great-grandparents made their home at Little Coxwell.



## Harry Hunter and his family line at Little Coxwell

Following Harry's family line on the distaff side, his great-grandmother Elizabeth was born in Little Coxwell about 1783.



Harry Hunter's mother Sarah Ann (nee Ilott) was born in Little Coxwell in 1854, the daughter of James and Sarah Ilott (nee Sarah Money, daughter of John and Elizabeth Money). Harry Hunter's father, Thomas Hunter was born at Childrey. Thomas Hunter came to Little Coxwell for work on a farm; in 1881, at the census for that year Thomas Hunter, aged 20, is lodging with George and Eliza Hawkins in the village; Thomas marries Sarah Ann Ilott later that year.

Sarah Ann Hunter nee Ilott was the daughter of James and Sarah Ilott who marry in 1833 and have a large family of children (10) at Little Coxwell. James Ilott was born at Woolstone: he too is an agricultural labourer becoming in later years a farm bailiff.

Sarah Ilott nee Money was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Money, she was born at Stanford-in-the-Vale in 1814, however she and her parents move soon after her birth to Little Coxwell as they are here in 1816 to baptise another child. John Money was a carpenter and wheelwright: his wife Elizabeth was born, per census records, at Little Coxwell about 1783. John Money, born 1787, came from Blewbury.

## His final day

### **Summary and Extracts from the War Diary**

Royal Berkshire Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (8<sup>th</sup> Division, 25<sup>th</sup> Brigade)

On the 9<sup>th</sup> September the battalion moved from Divisional Reserve billets at Fouquieries to Brigade Reserve in Vermelles Village lines.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September the battalion moved to front line trenches, returning to Brigade Support trenches on the 17<sup>th</sup> September until the 21<sup>st</sup>.

At 9 am on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 1916 the battalion proceeded to front line trenches ... 2 Other Ranks killed and 3 Other Ranks wounded.

One assumes therefore that Henry William Hunter was one of the two other ranks killed as referenced in this extract relating to the 21<sup>st</sup> September 1916, the date recorded for his death.

## Comments

Of the nine lads named on the war memorial:

- one of the five who are born at Little Coxwell
- one of the five who join the county regiment: the Royal Berkshires.





In Memory of

Private

## William Henry Hunter

17579, 2nd Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment who died on 21 September 1916 Age 28

Son of Thomas and Sarah Ann Hunter, of Little Coxwell, Faringdon, Berks.

Remembered with Honour  
Vermelles British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Extract from the web-site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

# **FREDERICK NASH**

# FREDERICK NASH

1886 – 1918

## Introduction

Frederick Nash was born at Tadley in Hampshire; his search for work brought him and his family to Little Coxwell and it was from here that he joined the Royal Berkshires at the time of the Great War.

## War Memorials

On the war memorial in St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell  
'Sgt Frederick Nash Royal Berks Regiment'

Recorded at Faringdon: on the War Memorial and in All Saints Church  
'F NASH'

In 2011 Frederick Nash's name was added to the war memorial at Tadley in Hampshire: 'S<sup>GT</sup> F. NASH - 1914 - 1918'



TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE  
OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES  
FOR OUR DEFENCE 1914 - 1918

Photographs of Tadley War Memorial showing the addition of  
'Sgt. F. Nash 1914-1918'

*Photographs by Ann Preston, April 2016*

## Service

203098 Sergeant  
Royal Berkshire Regiment, 2nd/4th Battalion

Died of wounds on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 1918. Aged 31 years.  
Grave at Aire Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.



203098 SERJEANT  
**F. NASH**  
ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT  
19TH MAY 1918

*Headstone and inscription at Aire Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France*

*(Photograph courtesy of Tadley and District History Society)*

## Family Background and Links with Little Coxwell

Frederick Nash was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 1886 at Bishopswood, Tadley, Hampshire. (His army records erroneously state that he was born at Keresley, Warwickshire.)

By courtesy of the Tadley and District History Society the details of Frederick Nash's early life:

Frederick Nash was born on 31 August 1886 at Bishopswood, Tadley, Hampshire. His parents were Thomas and Esther Nash (née Giles). Frederick was the youngest son of 13 children. When Frederick left school in 1900, aged 14, he went to work for George Mitchell who farmed at Burrell's Farm. When George and Sarah Mitchell moved to Wiltshire, Frederick went with them. After this move there was no regular family contact. In the 1901 census he and the Mitchell family were living at Shaw Farm, Chute, Wiltshire; he is recorded as a servant and his occupation was listed as cattle boy. In 1903, aged just 16/17 years, Frederick Nash married Amy Maria Mitchell, the younger daughter of his employer. The 1911 census shows Frederick, his wife and their three surviving children living at Little Salisbury, Wiltshire; his occupation was listed as gamekeeper.

After 1911 I have found Frederick, his wife and their three children living at Great Coxwell, at Stanford-in-the-Vale, and then at Little Coxwell from 1916 to about 1920.

The family is at Great Coxwell by March 1913 when Frederick is employed as a keeper and the family are living in a cottage at Badbury Hill. The children attend Great Coxwell school. By 1915 the family has moved to Stanford-in-the-Vale; I have a reference here to Frederick working as a hay-tier. The children attend the school at Stanford-in-the-Vale, but sometimes they do not, which brings Frederick into conflict with the law.

In the autumn the family move to Little Coxwell, all three children (George, Winifred Daisy and Stanley Gordon) start attending Little Coxwell school in October 1916; in the school records Frederick's occupation is recorded as labourer, so he is probably working on one of the farms.

In November 1919 Amy and the children are living in a cottage owned by Louis Paine, which is described as a cottage with a garden situated in the centre of the village at the rear of the post office, and separated from Manor Farm by a narrow path; the cottage is solidly constructed of brick and stone, with thatched roof, and having three bedrooms, kitchen, sitting room and pantry. This cottage is one of two similar cottages to be sold at auction, the other is occupied by Mrs Stone; the value of the combined rental is £11 14s p.a.

The electoral role for Little Coxwell in 1918 records both Frederick Nash and Amy Nash, Amy's name continues to be listed in subsequent years, the final entry is for 1920, when I presume Amy and the three children move away from Little Coxwell (due to the war there was no electoral roll published in 1916 or 1917).

### **His final day**

Frederick's final day is recorded on the website of the Tadley History Society (of Hampshire; Tadley being the village where Fred Nash was born) as follows:

*'Frederick Nash died in France of wounds sustained in battle on Sunday 19th May 1918, aged 31. Another local Tadley man, Ernest Sims (a rake maker from Pamber), was with him as he lay dying. Ernest Sims later told Frederick's family that together they sang a hymn 'There is a land that is fairer than day'.*

It is not deducible from the regimental war diary on which day Frederick was wounded, all that one can say is that it occurred sometime between the 10th May and 19th May in 1918.

### **Comments**

Of the nine lads named on the war memorial:

- Frederick Nash held the highest rank
- one of the three married men with a family of children.



In Memory of  
Serjeant  
**F Nash**

203098, 2nd/4th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment who died on 19 May 1918

Remembered with Honour  
**Aire Communal Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Extract from the web-site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

# **JOHN HENRY HANNA**



# **JOHN HENRY HANNA**

1897 – 1917

## **Introduction**

John Henry Hanna has no known grave: he is commemorated at the Tyne Cot Memorial.

## **War Memorials**

On the war memorial in St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell  
'Pte John Henry Hanna                      Gloucester Regiment'

Recorded at Faringdon: on the War Memorial and in All Saints Church  
'J H HANNA'

## **Service**

23938 Private  
Gloucestershire Regiment, 8th Battalion

Killed in action: died on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 1917, aged 20

No known grave; commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium (Panel 72 to 75)

## Family Background and Links with Little Coxwell

John Henry Hanna's birth in 1897 was announced in the local paper: on the 14<sup>th</sup> August, at Victoria Cottage, Little Coxwell, the wife of James Hanna, late Colour-Sergt. 1st Grand Division Royal Marines Light Infantry, of a son.

'Victoria Cottage' as a name has been lost, and may well have only been used by the Hanna family: my research indicates that it is most likely to be 'Southcot' (see also note 3).



*Southcot 2016*

John Henry was baptised at St. Mary's Church on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1897. His mother was Sarah, nee Titcombe, born at Knighton where she and James were married in 1894, she was 23, he was 37, or so he said, 42 would have been more accurate. James Hanna was born in Queens County, Ireland; he served 21 years with the Royal Marine Light Infantry, retiring with the rank of colour-sergeant.

To supplement his army pension James Hanna worked as a local agent of the Prudential Assurance Company. John Henry Hanna had an older sister and brother; all three attended the village school. Their mother Sarah died in 1900, just 3 years after John Henry's birth. Sarah Hanna, aged 29, was buried in the grave yard at St. Mary's on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 1900. Rather unusually the Little Coxwell school

log book makes reference to the event recording that in the afternoon the school was opened at 2.30 (providing a mid-day break of two and a half hours) and closed at 4.30 owing to some of the children being required to attend a funeral. The newspaper report provides further detail: 'At the grave-side the hymn, "Abide with me," was sung by the school children, mistress and teacher.' The report gives more detail on the event: The deceased took an interest in the Volunteers (the Faringdon detachment of the Volunteer Battalion of the Berkshire Regiment of which James Hanna was corporal), and shortly before her death expressed a wish that her husband should wear his uniform when following her remains to their last resting place. On hearing of this, six of Corporal Hanna's comrades signified their willingness to act as bearers, as a manifestation of sympathy for him, and of respect for the deceased. The coffin was carried to the grave by four Volunteers in uniform, whilst two others walked at the side. John's sister Elizabeth would have been 5½ years old, and one supposes would have been among the group of singers.

John Hanna started school the day after his mother's funeral: 19<sup>th</sup> September 1900; however his attendance is brief, less than a month later on the 7<sup>th</sup> December he and his sister leave. The census in the spring the following year shows John with his older sister and brother staying with their Titcombe grandparents at Woolstone. John's sister attends Ashbury school but John does not. All three children return to Little Coxwell and attend the village school from the 28<sup>th</sup> October 1901.



*Little Coxwell School built in 1846 and photographed in 1963, a year before it closed.*

James Hanna remarries in 1902: he marries Alice Fowler at St. Mary's Church on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. John left school at 13½ years old on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1911. However in April that year the census shows him living at home at Little Coxwell where he is shown as still being a 'scholar'. James Hanna dies on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1922 at Faringdon Cottage Hospital; he is buried on the 4<sup>th</sup> March in the graveyard at St. Mary's. A few months after this the family move away from Little Coxwell, ending the association which has started in 1897.

### **His final day**

#### **Autumn 1917: reports from the local newspaper the Faringdon Advertiser**

##### **Wounded**

A letter has been received by Colour Sergeant James Hanna from the Record Office stating that his son, Private J. H. Hanna, 8<sup>th</sup> Glosters was wounded on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1917 but to what hospital he has been sent is not known, and no information as to what became of him after being taken away by the ambulance has since been received.

Private Hanna was seen to walk to the ambulance from the line, not seriously wounded apparently. He was commended for bravery the night before he was wounded.

##### **Missing: believed killed**

Colour-Sergeant J. Hanna has received the following letter from the Platoon Sergeant of the Company in which his son was serving in France, and who, after being wounded, was afterwards missed, and nothing further has been heard of him:

Sir, Re news regarding your son, Private J. H. Hanna, No. 23938, of my platoon. I can only say that we know for a certainty that he was wounded in the advance on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1917, and since then we can find no trace of him. As we know for a fact that the Boches did not come back over that part of the ground over which we advanced, I fear there is no doubt but that he must have been caught by a shell while making his way to the first aid post.

It is with sincere sympathy that I write these few lines, but I do not see any possible chance of his being alive now or he would most assuredly have been traced ere now.

It will be some consolation to you in your loss to know that only the evening before he performed one of the most heroic acts a man can possibly do. He was in an advanced post with some of his comrades, when the 'Jerries' attempted to rush it. They threw several of their grenades, one of which your son threw out of the trench before it had time to explode, thus saving some of his comrades from serious injury, if not death. For this he was recommended for the D.C.M. and would have received it at the last presentation had he been with us, but no doubt you will hear more about this through other channels.

I can only add that for the short time I had the pleasure of knowing your son I found him a most willing, obedient, and clean soldier.

I have the honour, Sir, to remain, with sincere regards, yours faithfully, C. Arter, Sergt.

### **Report from the war diary of the 8<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment**

The war diary for the 20th September 1917, the date recorded for for John Hanna's death and the date on which we know he was wounded, shows that the battalion participated in an offensive starting at 5.40 a.m.(part of the Third Battle of Ypres). From the war diary:

First objective reached with comparative ease and this line consolidated.

On advance to final objective strong posts and snipers dealt with.

Enemy artillery barrage on original front and support lines very heavy. Casualties ... Other Ranks 160 Killed, Missing and Wounded.

### **Comments**

Of the nine lads named on the war memorial:

- the only one with no known grave
- the only one who served in the Gloucestershire Regiment.

In Memory of  
Private  
**John Hanna**

23938, 8th Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment who died on 20 September 1917

Remembered with Honour  
**Tyne Cot Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Extract from the web-site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*



*Tyne Cot*



*The panel at Tyne Cot on which John Henry Hanna's name is recorded:*

*'HANNA, J'*

*(12th name in the right hand column of the lower half)*

*Photograph July 2000*

# **JESSE PRESTON**



# **JESSE PRESTON**

1881 - 1918

## **Introduction**

Jesse Preston served from the start of the war in 1914 until he was killed in the Battle of the Aisne on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918. Jessie (as he was known within the family) was born, schooled, lived and worked at Little Coxwell.

## **War Memorials**

On the war memorial in St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell  
'Pte Jesse Preston                      Royal Berks Regiment'

Recorded at Faringdon: on the War Memorial and in All Saints Church  
'J PRESTON'

Recorded on the war memorial at Chichester, Sussex  
'ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGT.  
PRESTON, J.'

## Service

5731 Private

Royal Berkshire Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Previously served with the regiment at the time of the Boer War

Killed in action Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918 at the Battle of the Aisne, aged 36. Initially buried at Berry-au-Bac, where a wooden cross marked his grave, subsequently moved to Jonchery-sur-Vesle British Cemetery, Marne, France.



5731 PRIVATE

**J. PRESTON**

ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

27TH MAY 1918 AGE 37

*Headstone and inscription at Jonchery-sur-Vesle British Cemetery, Marne, France.*

*Photograph by Ann Preston, July 2000*

## Family Background and Links with Little Coxwell

Jesse Preston was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1881 at Little Coxwell; he was the youngest son of John and Jane Preston. His baptism was at St. Mary's Church, Little Coxwell on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1881.

Jesse went to school at Little Coxwell, for part of his schooling the village school was closed and he and his siblings attended Great Coxwell school; from Little Coxwell school Jesse went to the British school in Faringdon.

When Jesse's father, John Preston, returned to Little Coxwell after a number of years in the army serving in Canada and after the death of his first wife, also a Little Coxwell lass, he and his second wife Jane made their home in one of the pair of cottages known as Bunney Cottages on the Shrivenham Road, which is where all their children were born.



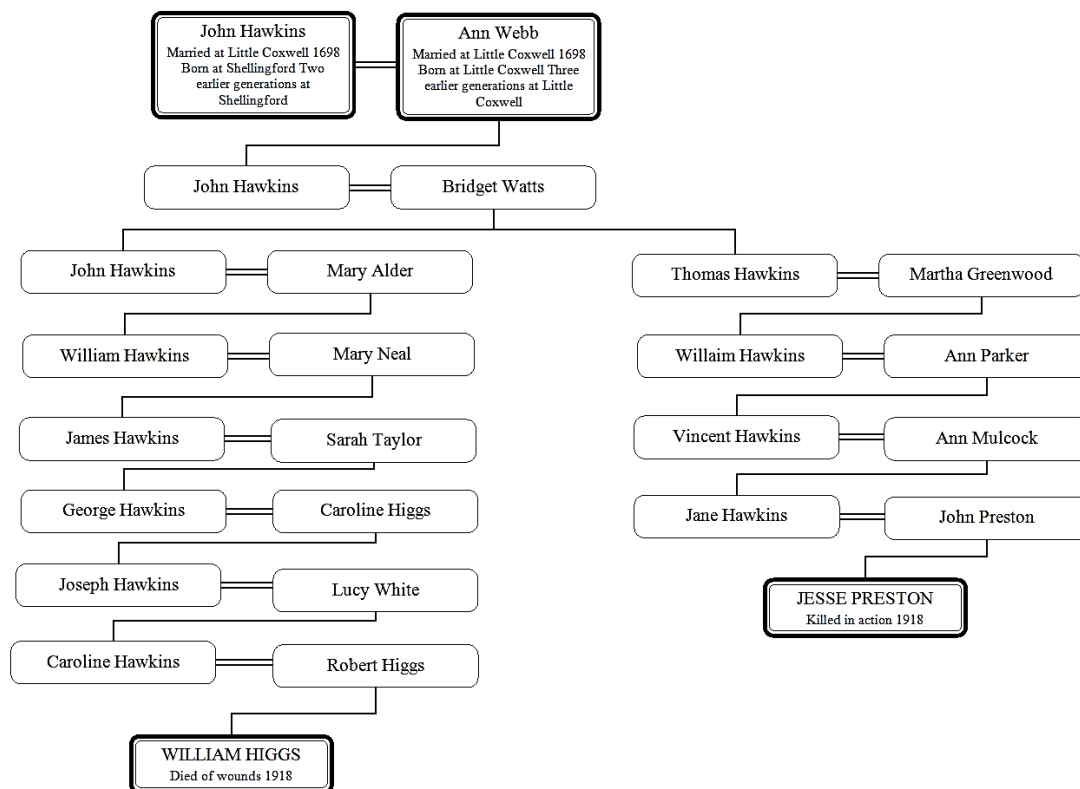
*Bunney Cottages, Little Coxwell, early 20<sup>th</sup> century*

The cottages were part of the Little Coxwell House Estate which is where Jesse's father, John Preston, worked as a carter. Jesse also worked on the same estate as a groom; in fact he was the third generation of Prestons to have worked there as his Preston grandmother Harriet was employed on the estate by Jonathan Belcher in 1845.

Jesse was amongst the earliest volunteers in August 1914, he enlisted in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. Jesse was killed in action in France in 1918. He was married to Cecilia; they had a daughter and a son.

Jesse Preston's lineage is traceable at Little Coxwell to 1706 through his father's family to his 3x great grandparents, Edward and Esther Preston, and through his mother's family to the 1620s. Jessie Preston shares with Harry Higgs a link with the Hawkins family: Jesse's mother was Jane Hawkins, and Henry Higgs mother was Caroline Hawkins.

**Chart showing link between Jesse Preston and William Higgs through the Hawkins family**



**N.B.** All these families through the generations had their home at Little Coxwell.

**Personal Note**

Jesse Preston is the youngest brother of my grandfather Henry (Harry) Preston. My aunt recalled 'Uncle Jessie' as someone who was always happy, who joked and teased her and whom she liked greatly, as I believe everyone did who knew him.

**Ann Preston.**

## His final day

### **The record from the war diary**

Jesse Preston was killed in the action of the Battle of the Aisne, on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918; the war diary, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, holding the line near Berry-au-Bac, gives a minimal account of the activity on that date: 'Enemy attacked along whole Brigade Front.' Jesse was just one of many who died or were wounded or captured.

### **Captain Alfred Clare was one of those captured; after the war and his release he gave an account of the events; here is part of his account:**

The Battalion relieved the French in this southern sector of Berry-au-Bac about the middle of May 1918. Immediately on arrival in this new sector which was a large salient, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Griffin D.S.O. (Lincoln Regiment attached Royal Berkshire Regiment) reported to Brigade HQ how impossible the position was, should the Germans make an attack, as they had direct observation of our whole line from Hill 108 on our right, and from rising ground on our left.

On the evening of May 26<sup>th</sup>: (1) orders came for us to send out of the line, NCOs and men surplus to requirements as laid down in a certain trench warfare manual, and immediately afterwards: (2) A message from Divisional HQ that a German attack was expected the following morning. The CO at once reported that were he to comply with (1) with a smaller Battalion on so large a front, he could not hold himself responsible for the result of any action in (2).

The Germans launched their attack at 1 a.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918 by dropping a tremendous barrage, covering the ground from Battalion Headquarters and including our two rear companies:(one in close support and one in reserve) and then back to and including the Divisional Artillery and the Aisne bridges. Our two forward Companies were almost untouched. We were defending in depth as well as breadth. About 3.30 a.m. reports came from our rear Companies that Germans were all round them in very large numbers, and had attacked from Hill 108 and from our left. This we soon confirmed as Germans were visible from Battalion Observation Posts everywhere in large numbers, and had overcome our forward Companies by excess of trench mortars and machine guns. Under such circumstances with no artillery support, chances of a scrap were absolutely useless. Orders were given by our CO for 'every man for himself' and he, I and others of Battalion HQ waited at Battalion HQ on the chance of a counter attack by the Battalion in support at Guyencourt. A

pigeon message was sent to Division about 4 a.m. stating the position. I was captured with Colonel Griffin at 7 a.m.

**The Reading Mercury of the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1918 published details of the battle, here is part of their account:-**

Very high tributes are paid by the war correspondents to the gallantry of the men of the Royal Berks and other units of the 8<sup>th</sup> Division when the Germans made their great attack on May 27<sup>th</sup> between Rheims and Soissons. Our men knew the attack was coming on the previous afternoon and every possible preparation was made to meet it and the men stood to all night.

The bombardment began about 1 o'clock in the morning and continued with great intensity and with an enormous amount of gas shells and very heavy trench mortar fire on the forward positions for three hours, when, about 4 o'clock the infantry attack on the right portion of our front began. There was a dense fog so that it was impossible to see 50 yards and the Germans seem to have been through and around all our outposts and before 5 o'clock up to the battle line before they were discovered. By 6 o'clock the Germans seem to have pierced the battle line on the extreme right.

At five minutes past six a pigeon message dated 5.15 a.m. was received from the colonel of the Royal Berkshires saying that he and his headquarters staff were surrounded. 'The Germans threw bombs down the dug-out' he wrote 'and passed on. They appear to approach from the right in considerable strength. No idea what has happened elsewhere. Holding out in hopes of relief.'

### **Comments**

Of the nine lads named on the war memorial:

- the oldest man to be killed
- Jesse Preston and William James Higgs are the only lads known to be related (Jesse's mother was Jane Preston nee Hawkins and William's mother was Caroline Higgs nee Hawkins so that through their Hawkins family connection the relationship is fourth cousin twice removed).

In Memory of  
Private  
**J Preston**

5731, 2nd Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment who died on 27 May 1918 Age 37

Husband of C. M. Preston, of 10, Parchment St., Chichester.

Remembered with Honour  
**Jonchery-Sur-Vesle British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Extract from the web-site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*



JONCHERY-SUR  
VESLE BRITISH  
CEMETERY

**JONCHERY-SUR  
VESLE BRITISH  
CEMETERY**

THE LAND ON WHICH THIS  
CEMETERY STANDS IS THE FREE  
GIFT OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE  
FOR THE PERPETUAL RESTING  
PLACE OF THOSE OF THE ALLIED  
ARMIES WHO FELL IN THE WAR OF  
1914-1918 AND ARE HONOURED HERE

**THE LAND ON WHICH THIS  
CEMETERY STANDS IS THE FREE  
GIFT OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE  
FOR THE PERPETUAL RESTING  
PLACE OF THOSE OF THE ALLIED  
ARMIES WHO FELL IN THE WAR OF  
1914-1918 AND ARE HONOURED HERE**



Headstone for Jesse Preston second from right



Placing flowers on Jesse's grave, great niece, Ann Preston



*Photographs by Ann Preston, July 2000*



# **ALBERT ERNEST KING**

# **ALBERT ERNEST KING**

1897 – 1918

## **Introduction**

Albert Ernest King (Bert, and Bertie as a young child) died in hospital in London as a result of wounds received to his face and hands in Italy. Bert is buried in the graveyard of St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell.

## **War Memorials**

On the war memorial in St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell  
'Pte Albert Ernest King                      Royal Berks Regiment'

Recorded at Faringdon: on the War Memorial and in All Saints Church  
'A E KING'

## **Service**

203187 Private  
Royal Berkshire Regiment, 1st/4th Battalion  
(Transferred from Berkshire Yeomanry)

Died of wounds on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1918 in Fulham Military Hospital in London, aged 20 years.

Grave in St. Mary's churchyard, Little Coxwell; buried on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918.



*St. Mary's photographed c. 1900*



203187 Private

**A. E. KING**

ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

22ND SEPTEMBER 1918 AGE 20

SLEEP ON DEAR BERT

THY LABOURS O'ER

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

*Headstone and inscription in St. Mary's churchyard, photograph 2016*

## Family Background and Links with Little Coxwell

Albert Ernest King (Bertie or Bert) was the son of Albert and Sarah Ann King; he was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1897 at Little Coxwell and baptised at St. Mary's Church on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 1897. His parents Albert King and Sarah Ann Jones were married in 1884. Bertie was the youngest of their many children.

At the time of the census in 1891 Albert and Sarah King with their four eldest children are living at Little Coxwell but at the time of the census taken in 1901 the family, including the three year old Albert Ernest, are living at Fernham, where father, Albert King, is a butcher and landlord of the Woodman Inn.

Albert Ernest King started school at Little Coxwell school on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1902; he was nearly five years old; the family having returned to Little Coxwell prior to this date.

The next major event in young Albert's life was the death of his mother in 1906 when he was eight years old. Sarah Ann King, aged 45 years, was buried at Little Coxwell on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 1906. Bertie's father, Albert King, re-married the following year at St. Mary's Church to Florence Edmonds; they also had quite a few children.

The family are living at Little Coxwell at the time of the 1911 census, Bertie is aged 13 and recorded as attending school; his father has a butchery business, with two of his sons assisting him in the business. Possibly young Bert followed in the footsteps of his older brothers and assisted his father in the family business. (No record of an occupation found.)

Census records show that his father, Albert King was born in Faringdon and that his mother Sarah Ann came from Langford, Oxfordshire.



The King's butchery business around 1911, when young Albert was growing-up, was located at the present day 'Studio Cottage'. Although taken some 20 years later this is a view of their yard; at this time the business was run by Albert's brother, Charles King who had taken over the business from their father in the 1920s.



*Photograph of boys with dogs in the butchery or slaughter yard  
courtesy of the King family*



*Studio Cottage 1964: selling Lyons Maid Ice-Cream and other goodies  
photographed by Ann Preston*

## His final day

### Reports from the Faringdon Advertiser

#### May 1918:

Private Albert E. King, 1/4 Royal Berkshire Regiment, Transport Section, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert King, of Little Coxwell, who was serving in Italy, has been wounded in the face and both hands. He is receiving attention in a Military Hospital in Italy, where he is making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

#### September 1918:

Much sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Albert King and their family in the death of Private. Albert E. King, youngest son by his first wife, who died at Fulham Military Hospital following an operation on Sunday last. Private King joined the Berkshire Yeomanry in January of 1915, but was afterwards transferred to the 1/4th, Royal Berkshire Regiment, and served with that regiment in France till November 1916, when he was wounded.

Having recovered, he was in November 1917, sent to Italy, where in the following May he was severely wounded in the face and hands by the accidental explosion of a bomb.

After receiving treatment in an Italian hospital he got home on Friday, September 6th 1918 where he was apparently making satisfactory progress towards recovery, but finding discomfort from a piece of shrapnel which was left in his face he went to the hospital mentioned for treatment, where, although the missile was successfully removed on Friday in last week, haemorrhage set in and he passed away as a result of the operation on Sunday last.

The funeral would have taken place at Little Coxwell on Thursday afternoon, but had to be postponed owing to railway disorganisation.

## Comments

Of the nine lads named on the war memorial:

- the only lad buried at Little Coxwell.

In Memory of

Private

## Albert Ernest King

203187, 1st/4th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment who died on 22 September 1918 Age 20

Son of Albert King, of Great Coxwell, Faringdon.

Remembered with Honour

Little Coxwell (St. Mary) Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Extract from the web-site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

# **HARRY KIBBLE**



# **HARRY KIBBLE**

1898 - 1918

## **Introduction**

Harry Kibble as a young boy probably visited his grandparents at Little Coxwell. Harry Kibble's grandparents retired to Little Coxwell after a working life on the Buscot Estate, both are buried at Little Coxwell. Harry's parents in their turn at retirement came to live at Little Coxwell. A couple of Harry's siblings, as adults, lived in Little Coxwell too.

## **War Memorials**

On the war memorial in St. Mary's Church at Little Coxwell  
'Bombardier Harry Kibble          Royal Field Artillery'

Recorded at Faringdon: on the War Memorial and in All Saints Church  
'H KIBBLE'

On the war memorial at Eaton Hastings  
'Harry Kibble'

## **Service**

L22958 Gunner/ Bombardier  
'D' Battery 112th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Killed in action on Tuesday 8th October 1918, aged 20 years.

Grave at Bellicourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France  
Headstone also bears the inscription: HE DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE

## Family Background and Links with Little Coxwell

Harry Kibble was the son of Thomas and Mary Ann Kibble, he was born on the 31st March 1898; his parents lived at Oldfield Farm at Buscot; Thomas Kibble, having become farm bailiff for the Buscot Park Estate, following his father's retirement from the same role. The Kibble family has strong links with Eaton Hastings village and it was at Eaton Hastings school that Harry started his schooling on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1902, shortly before his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Harry left this school on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1909 to go to Faringdon Boys School; his older brother Herbert transferred at the same time. Harry Kibble left school in May 1912 aged 14.

Harry Kibble joined the Royal Field Artillery, Camberwell Brigade in April 1915 in London, probably on the same day as his brother Herbert. Herbert Kibble worked as a porter in a drapery warehouse in London; it is possible that Harry joined his brother in the same employment. The Kibble brothers, Harry and Herbert, were serving together in July 1916 when both were injured: Harry severely and hospitalised whilst Herbert was given rest in the wagon lines.

Harry's parents, Thomas and Mary Ann Kibble, came to Little Coxwell on their retirement and lived at The Villa; both are buried in St. Mary's churchyard.



*The Villa, where Harry Kibble's parents lived at Little Coxwell photographed in 1964 when this was the village post office. The notice on the entrance porch reads 'LITTLE COXWELL POST OFFICE'.*

## **His final day**

The war diary of the 112<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery indicates that the batteries were participating in the final advance in Picardy and that on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1918, the date given for Harry Kibble's death there is just this brief note of the action:

'Brigade fired barrage attack on Audigny line and advanced to positions between Serain and Beaufevrier'.

That was Harry's final day.

## **Comments**

Of the nine lads named on the war memorial:

- the last one to die and the last one in the list of names.



In Memory of

Gunner

**H Kibble**

22958, "D" Bty. 112th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 08 October 1918 Age 20

Son of Thomas and Mary Kibble, of The Villa, Little Coxwell, Faringdon. Native of Eaton Hastings, Faringdon.

Remembered with Honour

**Bellicourt British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Extract from the web-site of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

# EPILOGUE

## EPILOGUE

With gratitude, sorrow and respect  
honour their memory



Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France  
with original grave markers

# NOTES

## NOTES

1. In this account where I have not recorded a county alongside the name of a village, then that village is within the royal county of Berkshire, i.e. Berkshire prior to 1974.

### 2. Census Dates:

	Date of Census (night of)	Notes
1801	Tuesday 10 March	
1811	Monday 27 May	
1821	Monday 28 May	
1831	Monday 30 May	
1841	Sunday 6 June	
1851	Sunday 30 March	
1861	Sunday 7 April	
1871	Sunday 2 April	
1881	Sunday 3 April	
1891	Sunday 5 April	
1901	Sunday 31 March	
1911	Sunday 2 April	
1921	Sunday 19 June	
1931	Sunday 26 April	Destroyed 1941*
1941		No census (war)
1951	Sunday 8 April	
1961	Sunday 23 April	
1966	Sunday 24 April	Ten percent sample
1971	Sunday 25 April	
1981	Sunday 5 April	
1991	Sunday 21 April	
2001	Sunday 29 April	
2011	Sunday 27 March	
1939 national registration	Friday 29 September	

\* 1931 census records destroyed in a fire in 1941, which was not caused by enemy action but appears to have been an accident; the Scottish Census for this year survived as it was stored in Edinburgh.



### **3. Victoria Cottage and its location**

The name Victoria Cottage is used by the Hanna family; my research suggests that it is the cottage known, since the 1930s at least, as Southcot.

This is the information I have:

The Hanna family are listed on the Little Coxwell electoral roll from 1898 until spring 1922. Victoria Cottage by name does not occur on the LC electoral roll, nor is it referenced by name in the census, neither does Green Gates nor Southcot.

In both the 1901 census and 1911 census, it is possible from the enumerator's route through the village to locate the Hanna's house as lying between Gorse Farm and Church House; in 1911 the property has 6 rooms (excluding scullery, closet etc.). Green Gates\* is ruled out on size; Fox is larger, not quite on the enumerator's route, and is ruled out by the facility to follow occupants from other records). This rather leaves Southcot as the best contender.

From some notes, relating to the property occupied by James Hanna, that I made absolutely years ago, but which are hopefully accurate: In the valuation list of property for 1906, the estimated gross rental p.a. is £10, the estimated extent of the property is 36 poles, so just under 1/4 of an acre; the owner at this time is Hon. D. P. Bouverie. In the 1910 survey the owner is shown as Fred. W. Porter of Faringdon (apparently a corn merchant). In both of these surveys the property is described as 'house and garden': therefore a step up in status from a 'cottage and garden'.

\* Green Gates: the small property last occupied by Mrs. Win Russell and formerly by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Seager, which stood on the site of the present Orchard House.

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